The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives labor an open and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor executive to the federal legislative, and judicial fields, and sustains other phases of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1854 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 36, NO. 43

GET OUT THE VOTE!
ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

LABOR, USA

The sixteenth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" progress over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

The Lid Is Coming Off

By ARNOLD S. ZANDER

President of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees

Labor again pointed the way for the nation this week—this time by demanding an immediate end to Government controls which are stifling a free economy.

Before President Truman informed the nation that he had decided to remove meat controls and would proceed promptly to take the lid off other price and wage ceilings, the 65th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, here in Chicago, served notice that it favored such action.

Thus, by a unanimous vote, the delegates called for immediate dissolution of the National Wage Stabilization Board which had forfeited the confidence of the nation's workers and had outlived its usefulness.

With an equally resounding voice, the convention voted for the end of all price controls, except rent.

Now it may not be particularly surprising for organized labor to oppose Government limitations on wages in peacetime. But the convention's action with regard to price ceilings is an entirely different matter and calls for some explanation.

The American Federation of Labor strongly supported the Government's wartime price control and rationing program in order to check profiteering and to assure to each citizen his fair share of the available supply of scarce commodities. Even labor, which has voluntarily agreed to temporary continuation of price and wage controls until orderly peacetime conditions could be reestablished.

But the Government did not make good on its promises to labor and to the nation. Reconversion moved too slowly. Unnecessary shortages persisted. The whole reconstruction drive became tied up in red tape. By insisting on artificial wage formulas, instead of using common sense, the Wage Stabilization Board forced needless strikes. Congress refused to approve an effective OPA law and adopted a measure which made a mockery of price control and forced the cost of living constantly higher.

Under the circumstances, labor saw no hope for relief except by making a new start and cutting the nation's economy free from restrictive Federal regulation. President Truman is now moving in that direction. Already a new wave of confidence is sweeping the nation.

In labor's opinion, the fear of widespread price inflation will prove groundless. In fact, we expect that once price controls are removed, the cost of living may begin moving downward. It we can prevent a sudden boom, the crash toward which the nation is heading will likewise be avoided. If business, labor and the Government exercise common sense and self-restraint, we can, by united action, build the foundations of lasting prosperity in the months ahead under the free and unregimented system which is the foundation of the American way of life.

The Peace Treaties

By JOSEPH D. KEENAN

Secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor

The disastrous failure of the Paris Peace Conference this week made a profound impression upon the delegates at the American Federation of Labor Convention.

Although our meeting here in Chicago was thousands of miles removed from the scene of the postwar mess in Europe, the delegates heard first-hand reports on what is going on over there and considered the issues at great length.

Their final decisions on foreign policy, approved by a unanimous vote, are important not only as an expression of more than seven million American workers but as a clear statement that the vast majority of our people will demand peace with justice and will never be satisfied with anything else.

Let me summarize briefly the outstanding conclusions reached by the American Federation of Labor in respect to world peace and international relations.

First, the convention condemned the aggressive and imperialistic actions of Soviet Russia. It reaffirmed the conviction that Russia is seeking world domination.

Second, the convention rejected a policy of appeasement, because even partial surrender to injustice would lead only to a new war and could never prove a secure foundation for lasting peace.

Third, the delegates declared that everything possible to revive and reestablish free trade union movements abroad so that these organizations can effectively support the cause of democracy and freedom in the nations of Europe which are still completely dominated by Russia.

Fourth, the convention gave a strong vote of confidence to Secretary of State Byrnes and supported his efforts to maintain a vigorous and firm position in defense of American principles in forging world peace.

Fifth, and finally, the American Federation of Labor convention pledged its complete allegiance to the United States and declared its determination to war against the forces of Communism in our own country which are trying to undermine the loyalty of the American people.

The disastrous failure of the Paris Peace Conference did the delegates merely say they thought Communism was a bad thing and let it go at that. They decided to carry on a constant and well-organized campaign against Communism so that subversive activities here at home can be promptly exposed and defeated.

We Fight Reaction

By IRVIN R. KUENZLI

Secretary of the American Federation of Teachers

There are two ways of combatting reactionary forces within our country—one by defending our free trade unions against attack, and the other by urging the adoption of a program for further progress toward a better way of life. The convention of the American Federation of Labor, which ended this week, voted to employ both methods in their fight against reaction.

On the offensive side, the convention approved a program of social justice legislation which would go far toward assuring to every American family insurance against poverty and distress in old age, unemployment, ill health, sickness, accident, or disability.

This program calls for higher social security benefits and wider coverage of this law which has proved so beneficial to the nation in its ten years of operation. It includes a national system of unemployment insurance for the double purpose of preventing hardship and suffering among jobless workers from being heartlessly thrown into a scrap heap like unwanted bits of machinery.

The convention also recommended higher salaries for public school teachers as the answer to the teacher shortage crisis facing the nation.

Beyond these steps, the convention called upon the Congress to adopt a national system of health insurance—something that is badly needed by the people of this country.

It will take lots of hard work and an effective educational campaign to enlist public support for this program and secure favorable action by Congress, but the American Federation of Labor has enlisted in this cause and will not quit until it is won.

At the same time, the convention authorized a fight to the limit against efforts in the State Legislatures and in the next Congress to adopt repressive legislation infringing upon the rights of American workers. We know these attacks are coming. We are going to be ready to meet them and defeat them.

This is not labor's private concern. It is the concern of the American people as a whole, including the businessmen of the nation. Once the government and the people lose the free enterprise principles on which the free enterprise of industry also will be menaced. One cannot survive without the other. If the trade union movement is pinned in legislative chains, American industry will also be economically handicapped.

We are convinced that the great mass of the American people and wise businessmen as well, will support our view that our country will get along far better in the future if Government control of labor, industry and the entire economy is kept to a minimum.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 5,000 WAR VETERANS

Washington, D. C.—The War Department has announced that the regular Army will accept up to 5,000 disabled veterans having special skills. A partial list of positions opened to handicapped men includes diesel and automobile mechanic, clerk, laboratory technician, draftsmen, telephone operators, radio operators, medical, dental and photographic technicians.

CONCORD WORKERS SET RECORD

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department reports that workers in the Concord area of North Carolina, at 88 cents an hour, were the highest paid in April of this year the average hourly earnings have ever been in the textile industry.

According to the report, the Spartanburg workers in South Carolina averaged $1.3, which was the highest average for any South Carolina center.

Typographical Group In Chicago Launches Project For Vets' Homes

Chicago.—Members of the Chicago Typographical Union, No. 16 (AFL), have organized for purchase of 154 acres here as the site for a 1,500-unit residential development for veterans. It is a nonprofit organization and already the contracts for the project have been signed.

The land will be improved with 1,000 single family dwellings and several apartment buildings and group houses to contain 500 units, all of which will be individually owned. Business buildings will be owned and operated by the association, it was said.

The ultimate total cost of the big privately owned veterans housing project is expected to exceed $10,000,000, with an estimated eventual population of between 4,000 and 5,000. Ground is expected to be broken next spring.

The project is only semicooperative. The association will own and operate the project as a whole, but each member will own and hold title to his own home, which he will acquire from the association. Economies effected through mass buying of materials, architectural services, construction costs, and financing will be passed along to members of the association.

"One of the purposes of the association is to operate and maintain the community after the homes have been built," said Robert B. MacDonald, president. "Certain parts of the development, exclusive of the home sites, will remain the property of the association. These include park and playground space, roads, utilities, shopping area, and other facilities.

"Each home owner will own a proportionate share of association property. The cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating the community property will be met out of dues or, where necessary, assessments."

British Labor Urged to Sacrifice To Help Success of Socialism

Brighton, England.—Charles Dukes, president of the Trades Union Congress, placed before the opening session of that body here a new role for labor unions under socialism, involving a wholly different set of purposes, techniques and attitudes than those to which British labor had long been accustomed under capitalism.

The TUC, Dukes emphasized, was totally committed to the support of the Labor Party which brought the socialist government to Britain, but will be obliged to sacrifice much of its cherished ideals to make socialism a success. Unions, he said, should think in terms of more production instead of more jobs, and the community good instead of the wage earner's benefits.

The agenda of the five-day meeting has little to do with Dukes' picture of the future, however. The principal issue concerns the closed shop and jurisdictional disputes, about which the TUC general council issued a supplementary report. This report reaffirmed the traditional demand that all wage earners should be union members, but it held that existing problems should be settled through the TUC machinery rather than by strikes.

Edward Brown, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Thomas Kennedy, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Mine Workers are the AFL delegates to the Congress.

O'Dwyer to Honor AFL Electricians

New York City.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL) has announced that Mayor O'Dwyer will award 292 inscribed honor scrolls to pioneer members of the union at a testimonial dinner in the Astor Room Square Garden on October 29th.

The 25,000 membership is expected to be present for the event with Mayor O'Dwyer and other prominent personages give words of high praise to the fulltime service of the union's veteran members of the organization. The scrolls will be the first awarded since 1943 and will include residents of all New York's boroughs and many suburban communities in the Metropolitan area.

A comment from Harry Van Arsdale, business manager of the union, is that it is most fitting and appropriate that the Mayor of our city should so honor these men who devoted their energies to the service of the community of which he is now Chief Magistrate."

W. F. PATTERSON CITES APPRENTICESHIP GAINS

New Castle, Pa.—William F. Patterson, Director of the Apprentice Training Service, Labor Department, has issued a warning that industry shall maintain the highest living standards of any nation in the world," Mr. Green declared. "Labor realizes that, important as are wages and employment conditions, they must be supplemented by essential health, welfare and recreational facilities. Our Labor League for Human Rights constantly seeks to expand such services."

Mr. Woll, president of the AFL's Labor League for Human Rights, said:

"Concern for the welfare of others is why national union members of the American Federation of Labor, through the AFL's Labor League for Human Rights have engaged in countless humanitarian causes both at home and abroad. It is our aim to assist in the broadening of development of health, welfare and recreation facilities throughout America."

Matthew Woll in promoting Labor League said stated: "We shall give you our heartiest support."

INDUSTRIAL INJURIES RISE

San Francisco, Calif.—A great rise has been noted by Boyd Schanberg, Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, stresses the fact that permanently disabling injuries disabled as a result of industrial injuries in 1945 was larger than the entire population of the city of Sacramento.

In 1945, 155,849 workers were disabled by industrial accidents in California, not including nonbreadwinner household workers, up 5,000 during the year. In 1945, industrial fatalities numbered 549 compared with 522 in 1944, which is 27 percent when the proportionate reduction of employment is taken into consideration, according to Mr. Schanberg.

SOME JUNK PILE!

An average of 2,161,811 automobiles and trucks were scrapped annually in the five year period from 1925 to 1944, it was reported this week.

Ruling By Truman Expected On Scrapping Wage Controls

Lewis Demands New Mine Talks; Finds Government Breached Contract

Washington, D. C.—Charges that the Government has not lived up to its part of the contract signed with the United Mine Workers were made by John L. Lewis, UMWA president, in calling upon Interior Secretary J. A. Krug to reopen negotiations on wages and other issues.

In a letter to Mr. Krug, Mr. Lewis declared the union regards its present contract with the Government as void and asked for a conference November 1. The contract of May 29 provided, Mr. Lewis said, that under its terms either party could reopen it by giving 10 days' notice of a new negotiating conference, and after five more days either party could terminate the agreement.

Mr. Lewis asserted in his letter that, aside from alleged breaches in contract by the Government, "significant changes" has been made "in the Government's wage policy."

He accused Mr. Krug of having made "unilateral misinterpretations" which constituted a breach of the present agreement, adding:

"A breach of any of its provisions breaks the whole. For 30 days our representatives have protested these breaches of contract which have led to the loss of millions of dollars due to the mine workers. Your absolute refusal to correct these errors continues unabated."

He declared that only Saturday, after a personal interview, Mr. Krug had "refused to correct the unilateral misinterpretations."

He complained specifically about the Government's interpretation of pro rata vacation payments to miners and its method of computing payments to the miners' welfare and retirement fund.

On the vacation issue Mr. Lewis argued that the Government's finding meant that miners who had changed jobs or quit before the advent of the mines would lose pro rata monthly vacation payments running "into millions of dollars."

In his discussion of the welfare fund issue he protested a decision allowing the operators to compute on the basis of railroad weight, rather than tipple weight, the 5 cents per ton royalty which goes to the fund. Coal at the tipple weighs more than after it is washed and loaded in railroad cars.

TWA Planes Idle In Wage Dispute

Washington, D. C.—Trans-World Airlines continued to cancel flights over its 28,000-mile system after 1,400 pilots, members of the AFL Airline Pilots' Association, stopped work when the company declined to grant their requests for pay increases.

In Chicago, David L. Behncke, union president, said the pilots were "determined to carry on the strike until their terms are met."

"If Behncke said they had exhausted all state mediation efforts," the AFL Labor Act in an effort to reach a settlement of a 15-month dispute, but had failed to do so. Mr. Behncke charged "lack of sincerity and procrastinating tactics."

While the wage issue technically is before the National Mediation Board, a spokesman for that agency said the strike had not been brought to its attention officially.

The company earlier averted a strike last spring when he named a fact-finding board to fix wages. That board granted certain increases in the complicated pilots' wage structure, and the company placed these in effect.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO MEET IN MIAMI JAN. 29

Chicago.—The Executive Council of the AFL has called the annual meeting to open its next quarterly meeting January 29 in Miami.

AFL President William Green was authorized during the convention to make a short trip to the Union of Railroad Yard Masters, representatives of members if investigation of the application develops a satisfactory report.

COMMUNITY SERVICE BUREAU IS OPENED BY CIO IN PHILA.

Philadelphia, Pa.—The Central Labor Union of Philadelphia and vicinity, is the first union affiliated with AFL to establish a full-time office and director for community service work. The purpose of the Community Service and Public Relations Department, headed by Harry Kroger, are to guide fund-raising efforts, in the CIO, for voluntary agencies and to see that increasing contributions are made by AFL members by the social agencies.

The department will also develop local cooperation with national health and welfare agencies, both voluntary and governmental, and to work closely with the Labor League for Human Rights (AFL).

HEAVY IMPROVEMENTS

The carriers poured more than $500,000,000 into new locomotives, cars, track, signals, buildings and other capital improvements in 1945, according to the AAR. This was the heaviest expenditure since 1930.

UNION LABEL SHOW PLANS LARGE RADIO BROADCAST

St. Louis, Mo.—Marking the opening of the AFL's Union Label and Industrial Exhibition here Tuesday, October 29, a nationwide broadcast will be presented from 12 to 12:30 noon on the opening day over the facilities of the Mutual Broadcasting Co. The show will be open through November 3.

Among the speakers will be Gov. Phil M. Donnelly of Missouri; Hale E. Kaufman, Director of the AFL Political Division; Frank Green, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, and L. M. Cerborn, director of the exhibition, and Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department.

Musicians Win 37½% Pay Rise For Recordings

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians (AFL) announced that an agreement with a 37½ percent increase for musicians who make popular and symphonic recordings had been reached and ratified by members. The union originally demanded a 50 percent boost for artists making both recordings and transcriptions. Parleys to establish rates for transcription work will continue in Chicago next week. Members of the industry who negotiated with Petrillo yesterday in the Palmer House were members of the executives of the record making industry.

CEILINGS TAKEN OFF ITEMS MADE BY DISABLED VETS

Washington, D. C.—The Office of Price Administration has announced that price controls have been lifted from 15 percent of apparel accessories items made and sold by disabled veterans as handicraft projects.

The action by OPA articles suspended must be produced entirely by the manual skill of a disabled veteran receiving compensation, pension or disability retirement benefit as part of the agency's benefits administered by the VA, War Department or Navy Department.

INDEPENDENT IN MILWAUKEE JOINS WITH UAW-AFL GROUP

Milwaukee, Wis.—A former independent union, the Northern Rebuilding Company of Escanaba, Mich., has voted to affiliate with the International Union of United Automobile Workers of America. After a discussion of the advantages of affiliation with the UAW-AFL, the group signed up and were granted a charter, immediately. In addition to many favorable provisions are a closed shop, check-off of dues, job security, seniority rights and grievance procedures, standard overtime payments, and paid vacations.

CAPITAL HOTELS REFUSE TO ARBITRATE DISPUTE

Washington, D. C.—The hotel strike in the Nation's Capital continued as management stood by its refusal to submit the issues to full arbitration—a course sought by the 5,000 striking employes, members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International (AFL).

Meanwhile a large number of diners and government employees found eateries cancelled because those in charge would not ask the prospective guests to defy picket line.

UAW-AFL WINS INCREASE

Milwaukee, Wis.—In less than 30 days after requesting approval of a 12½ cents an hour wage raise for all employes of local 223, UAW-AFL of the Milwaukee Gaz Specialty local, the Wage Stabilization Board has approval for immediate effective date was given. A previous boost of 8 cents brings the total increase to 20½ cents and advances the minimum rates in the plant substantially.

After four months' employment, the lowest paid woman worker will receive 81 cents an hour, while the minimum rate for men workers will be 91 cents with a top range of $1.70 an hour.

SHOE PRODUCTION RISES

Washington, D. C.—In a preliminary report from the Census Bureau the August shoe production totaled 40,000,000 pairs, which was a 26 percent increase over July, when variations stopped as production drops and compared with June output of 42,000,000 pairs.

Nonfarm Jobs Top 40 Millions

Washington, D. C.—Employment in non-farm jobs topped the 40 million mark in September, the first time since December, 1944, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced. The 40,047,000 reported for September was only 700,000, or 1% per cent, below the record of 41,000,000.

Unemployment remained at about 2 million, said the bureau.

The number of jobs rose 266,000 between August and September. Besides gains of 121,000 each in manufacturing and trade, veterans' enrollments brought a rise of 56,000 in Government employment. Despite this there were one-half million fewer government jobholders than a year ago, the BLS said.

WOLL AND GREEN URGE CHEST DRIVE SUPPORT

Washington, D. C.—Community Chest campaigns throughout the nation were given a rousing send-off by AFL President William Green and Vice President Matthew Woll, both of whom, with AFL national union leaders, called on all AFL members to do their part in the drive for more than $160,000,000.

"The workers of our country are determined that our nation shall maintain the highest living standards of any nation in the world," Mr. Green declared. "Labor realizes that, important as are wages and employment conditions, they must be supplemented by essential health, welfare and recreational facilities throughout America."

Matthew Woll in promoting Labor League said stated: "We shall give you our heartiest support."

Convention Report Bluntly Raps WSB

(Chicago.—Following is the formal report adopted by the AFL convention, embodying swift foreshadow of the activities of the Wage Stabilization Board in the interest of the American worker):

The National Wage Stabilization Board was established to administer the wage control program of the Federal Government in its effort to avoid inflation by regulating wages and prices. Its existence, therefore, was predicated upon an effective antiinflation program.

"Today there is no such program. The steady, persistent emancipation of price control by the Federal Government has reduced the need for a Wage Stabilization Board to zero. The time has come when the organized and the unorganized workingmen of America must be freed from wage controls which have become an added burden upon their efforts to provide food, clothes and shelter. For working people the fight against inflation is at this time futile and they should not be made to bear the added disability of a wage control board which limits their attempt to obtain for themselves temporary relief from ever-rising prices.

"In summary, therefore, your committee unanimously recommends to the delegates in this convention that the American Federation of Labor take immediate and positive steps toward terminating the National Wage Stabilization Board."

Many Already Dropped With Termination of Ceilings on Prices

Washington, D. C.—Increasing indications have been here that controls are slated for the discard and soon will take their place beside those which already have been abandoned with numerous other wartime regulations.

In consequence, the eyes of labor and Government are pointed toward President Truman, who is expected to announce in the near future how quickly and to what extent wage controls will be dropped.

Industry wage limitations, like OPA ceilings, have been abandoned since VJ-Day in many fields. Generally, they are being removed from industries as price ceilings are abandoned. As an example, when price controls on meat and livestock were terminated automatically in the packing industry.

However, the problem is not quite so simple as a flat drop of all wage controls, since there also have been the issue close study report. It is a complex problem, with respects simply said. Wage stabilization is divided into both direct and indirect controls, and the control of it still exercised over the wage and salary rises in the building and construction field, over all wage decreases and rates established for new jobs or plants.

In addition to the detailed regulations of the Wage Stabilization Board, direct control means the failure to obtain the board's approval or wage changes coming within the above categories marks a violation of the Stabilization Act.

The WSB also is administering direct control of wage rates for war veterans under the veterans' training program. Its purpose is to prevent employer from paying unreasonably low wages to former service men who are receiving government payments while in training.

The WSB in a few instances has approved applications for low wage rates in this class, holding that the wages received while in training should have some relationship to the pay which the veteran will receive when his training is completed.

In addition to these direct controls, the WSB regulations establish indirect controls which extend to a much wider field but are being reduced in scope as price ceilings are terminated.

The indirect controls specify that wage increases may not be used as a basis for requesting higher OPA ceilings on prices or rents or as a basis for increases sought to the Federal Government unless they have the WSB's approval.

Several recent developments have weakened the WSB's hold on wage controls and have impelled the reconsideration of the entire program. These included:

1. Overruling of the WSB's decision by the U. S. Steelman, reconversion director, in the maritime labor case involving 70,000 workers. The unions were allowed a greater increase than the board would approve.

2. The refusal of the two industry members of the board. Mr. Truman has not yet accepted their resignations, and there is being given to setting up a new board or agency which would abandon the tripartite plan under which labor, industry and the public are equally represented.

3. The Government's speed up the entire wage-price decontrol program as a result of the removal of ceilings from meat.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news sessions and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor centering in the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and considers other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

GET OUT THE VOTE! ELECT A BETTER CONGRESS!

Wide Gains Mark Southern Drive; AFL Scores Once More at Oak Ridge

Atlanta, Ga.—Far reaching gains in the AFL's drive to organize 1,000,000 workers throughout the South, revealed in daily reports pouring into the headquarters of the campaign here, were highlighted by announcement that the AFL was elected bargaining agent for the 1,100 service and maintenance workers in Oak Ridge, Tenn., seat of the atom bomb project.

In an NLRB election at the Roane-Anderson Co., the AFL received 700 votes and 42 workers voted for no union. The CIO and the International Machinists Union withdrew from the contest when it became obvious they didn't have a look-in.

This victory followed by several weeks that registered when employees of the Monsanto Chemical Co. at Oak Ridge selected the AFL as their bargaining agent.

Other reports from widely scattered areas revealed important expansion of existing AFL unions, establishment of many new organizations, NLRB election victories and negotiation of new contracts carrying pay increases, improved working conditions and other major benefits.

Outstanding among these reports are the following:

The Tobacco Workers International Union won 11 elections and established contract relationship for these companies in the Eastern Carolinas and Virginia since the Southern campaign got under way. Wage increases up to 18 cents an hour and vacations with pay have been secured. In N. C., one of the largest tobacco markets in the world, has 8 new local unions established and the entire industry under the banner of the Tobacco Workers.

Charters for retail clerks have been installed in New Orleans, Alexandria and Winnfield, La.

District 50, United Mine Workers, has won a big Dupont de Nemours election at Belle, W. Va., defeating CIO and an independent union. Each unit comprises about 3,700 employes.

The Office Employes International Union has organized the entire staff of the Federal Reserve Bank; office workers have joined the union.

United Brick and Clay Workers of America report the signing of two contracts for its Kentucky membership. The large Empire Brick Co. contract give Brick and Clay Union members a raise of 25 cents an hour, making their base pay 86 cents, together with a liberal vacation and a closed shop. Another contract with Sharp and Lime Company increases pay as much as 20 cents per hour. The local associated to this contract is a newly organized one and prior to this agreement their base rate was 66 cents an hour and jobs were wholly unclassified. Pay raises and classifications raised base rate 25 cents and 30 cents an hour with a wage reopening clause in its 2 year, 1947. Improved vacations and a closed shop were also included in this contract.

Truck Drivers, Salesmen & Warehousemen's Local Union No. 667, in Memphis, reported the signing of an agreement covering all materials and maintenance employes at the Tupelo, Miss., fertilizer plant of the International Minerals & Chemical Corp. All employes under the contract received a very substantial wage increase along with many other bettered working conditions which include an 8-hour work day with a 40-hour work week. The company agreed to pay time and a half for all work performed in excess of 8 hours in any 24-hour period, or in excess of 40 hours a week.

In Birmingham, employes of the McKesson-Robbins Co. received, in a contract signed with Teamsters Local Union No. 612, a wage increase ranging from 15 cents to 24½ cents per hour. The new agreement also carries a vacation clause with the employes receiving one week's paid vacation after one year of service, and two weeks' paid vacation after two years of service.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has been certified as collective bargaining agent following an NLRB election for the Southeastern Telephone Co. with headquarters at Tallahassee, Fla. The unit covered by the certification is the plant traffic and commercial departments over a company-wide area. The company employs about 300 here. Also changes in south Georgia and west Florida.

Structural Iron and Bridge Workers International Union has organized the Ludman Corp., Miami, Fla. The company granted the union recognition without requiring an election.

W. E. Whitt, Vice President Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Motor Coach Employes of America, reports recent organization of 200 members were gained in new bargaining units at Columbus, Ga., Montgomery, Troy and Selma, Ala.

The National Farm Labor Union is carrying on an organizing drive in the cotton country in the vicinity of Memphis and is one of the newest affiliates of the AFL. The union is seeking to organize 5,000 cotton pickers on the Memphis area. Latest reports show the agricultural workers joining in droves.

Office Employes Local 78, Jacksonville, Fla., announced signing of the Florida Steel Corp. and Florida Pipe Lines. A new wage schedule provides an automatic wage increase for all members connected with the newly organized one and prior to this agreement their base rate was 75 cents an hour and jobs were wholly unclassified. Pay raises and classifications raised base rate 25 cents and 30 cents an hour with a wage reopening clause in its 2 year, 1947. Improved vacations and a closed shop were also included in this contract.

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Bradley Fears For Veterans Who Waste Jobless Benefits

Washington, D. C.—Stern warning that there is rough sledding ahead for veterans who are counting on their unemployment benefits recklessly was sounded here by Veterans Administrator Omar N. Bradley.

"I am greatly concerned over the rate at which many veterans are expending their readjustment allowances," General Bradley said in an interview.

"A veteran who lies idle for a year, living on unemployment checks in a period when jobs are more plentiful than they may be later, might find it hard to get work and to get to work when his readjustment allowance ends," General Bradley warned.

"That veteran is losing seniority and experience leading to a better job.

"He is forfeiting the opportunity for deferred unemployment payments—a special fund which he himself has been wearing into of an income should he lose his job any time within the two-year period after the war has been officially declared ended."

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDING PLANS IN NEW YORK SET RECORD

Albany, N. Y.—During the first nine months of this year, industrial building plans filed with the State Labor Department surpassed any previous full year, both in number and construction costs, Edward Corsi, Industrial Commissioner, reported that in 386 plans, representing construction costs of $74,788,100, outside of New York City, were filed with the Department in nine months for approval of compliance with the State industrial code.

The highest number of plans previously submitted on an annual basis was 372 in 1941, which, however, was high in construction costs was $65,790,230 in 1942, which, according to Corsi, was the "peak year of construction year."

A breakdown of the figures showed that the largest factory construction to cost $46,843,317, and $7,166 for mercantile establishments at $22,797,917 and the balance of public assembly at $2,991,866.

Of the total 2,385 plans, 1,170 were for new buildings costing $45,041,900, the remainder for alterations and installations.

TRUMAN DOESN'T EXPECT TO CALL SPECIAL SESSION

Washington, D. C.—President Truman has made it clear that he has no intention of calling a special session of Congress. When questioned at his recent news conference he closely questioned on the matter, he has indicated emphatically stated that such current rumors were untrue.

Value of Dollar Down 31¢ Since '41, BLS Study Shows

Washington, D. C.—The purchasing power of the dollar shrank 31 cents between January, 1941, and last September 15, it was revealed in a study by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The shrinkage was by last June was reported at 24 cents.

One official said the shrinkage would probably continue as a result of Office of Price Administration action in removing price ceilings from all but 3 percent of foods. Foods account for 44.3 percent of the items priced by the department's consumer index for measuring the purchasing price of a dollar.

The BLS report said in a study of wage reopening clauses in union contracts that this is the principal reason why unions are seeking cost-of-living pay increases for more than 8,000,000 workers whose contracts can be reopened for wage negotiations.

BLS said there had been a big increase since the end of the war in the number of union contracts which provide for wage reopening in event of a rise in the cost of living. It said that in 1939, the number of contracts that could be reopened on wages was 5 percent. It rose to 40 percent by 1942. Then wage stabilization was enacted by Congress and the War Labor Board ordered these clauses eliminated or suspended.

Toward the end of its existence, however, the board authorized reopening of wage contracts if there was a significant change in Government wage stabilization policy. BLS said this brought a sharp rise in the number of contracts with reopening clauses. More than 70 percent now contain them based on a study of 99 key contracts which set wage rates for 22 major industries.

"These unions do not want wages to remain frozen for a year or longer, depending on the length of the contract term, in the face of important recurring price and other changes in the economy which may seriously undermine the standard of living of the workers affected by the contract," the bureau stated.

"In a stable economy, with an adequate supply of goods and services on the market at fairly stable prices, the monetary wage comes pretty close to measuring also the wage earner's real wages. But when wages remain stationary and prices rise, the purchasing power of the dollar declines and workers suffer a decrease in real wages and, consequently, also in their standard of living."

W. U. Telegraphers Get Raises Of 50 Millions Since VJ-Day

Denver, Colo.—Reports to the convention of the Western Union Division, Commercial Telegraphers Union (AFL), in session here, showed wage gains of $55,000,000 a year for 50,000 employes since V-J Day.

The last increase amounts to $22,440,000 annually, but the refusal of the War Labor Board award of last November, representing a total of $27,000,000 a year. The 55-million figure includes back pay and the current award.

Twice during the convention the delegates hurled at the Western Union the threat of a strike. Despite the company's acceptance of the recent 16½-cent-an-hour increase, pending a fact-finding board, delegates reported wholesale chiseling and the start of a so-called company program which they declared was aimed at nullifying the increase. The second strike threat was sent when delegates received word from members back home that, although the company agreed to meet officials and fix the anniversary, antiunion practices were being continued.

J. A. Payne was reelected national president, beginning his sixth term; Henry G. Shoemaker of Baltimore was elected to be legislative national vice president, a new position, and Adam Bauer was reelected as national secretary-treasurer.

Executive directors elected were Jerry Walters, Los Angeles; I. Douglas Holcombe, Denver; E. T. Freeman, Cleveland; R. S. Edwards, Charlotte; F. C. Foli, Washington, and J. F. Fitzgerald, New York. The above six, together with seven regional directors elected by referendum, comprise the national executive board.

The next convention will be in October 1947, in Los Angeles.

Green Calls on Nebraskans to Defeat Amendment Outlawing Union Shops

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green, in a special message to the recent convention of the Nebraska State Federation of Labor in Stock Bluff, sounded an urgent call upon labor in this State to defeat the proposed amendment to the State Constitution designed to "abolish the closed shop."

Warning that such an amendment, upon which a vote will be taken in the November election, would undermine the liberties of labor in that State and throw labor relations there into constant turmoil, Mr. Green said:

"There is abundant evidence that the enemies of labor are carrying on a nationwide campaign to destroy union movement and the high standards it has attained in obtaining for American workers.

"Right here in the State of Nebraska, for instance, there is a move on now to abolish the union shop by amendment to the State Constitution. This proposed amendment, Labor Day to let the people of this State decide the fate of this anti-labor proposal.

"I appeal to you with all the earnestness at my command to defeat this proposed amendment. In so doing, you will not only be protecting the rights of labor in the State of Nebraska, but you will be striking a decisive blow against the development of Fascism in America.

"The courts have held in any number of decisions that the union shop is entirely legal. The claims of labor in order to make it appear that opportunities for jobs are shut off to those who do not belong. That is propaganda of the lowest type.

"Actually the union shop is part of the time honored amendment. Labor today, which has made our country great, but as individual investors are permitted to pool their small savings into funds to form corporations for large-scale production, so individual workers are allowed under our free, democratic government, to pool their economic strength into labor unions as well."

TEACHERS' PAY RAISE URGED	AUTO OUTPUT AT RECORD	BRICK OUTPUT PICKS UP	SALOON PICKETS WITHDRAW
Washington, D. C.—Increased pay, so that the exit of teachers from the profession" has been urged by the National Education Association. "The average salary will need to be doubled before it equals the average wage straight into the union ranks," N.E.A. stated.	Detroit, Mich.—During the third week of October an all-time high in passenger car production by General Motors in the United States was reached, bringing a new high point for the year total of 28,288 automobiles manufactured, according to Ward's Report of 27,540 was reported for the preceding week.	New Orleans, La.—The most critical production difficulties resulting from wartime and reconversion problems have been overcome in the brick and tile industry, J. Earnest Parsons, president of the Structural Clay Products Institute, announced. He predicted that the brick industry "will soon face a period when inventories can be rebuilt to normal proportions."	Pittsburgh, Pa.—Pickets were removed by the AFL Teamsters Union from five downtown saloons that owners agreed not to handle beer from the CIO Brewery Workers, ending a labor jurisdictional dispute. The short-lived picketing, a half day, threatened to shut off milk, food, and ice deliveries to the saloons if they continued to receive CIO delivered beer.

Bradley Fears For Veterans Who Waste Jobless Benefits

Washington, D. C.—Stern warning that there is rough sledding ahead for veterans who are counting on their unemployment benefits recklessly was sounded here by Veterans Administrator Omar N. Bradley.

"I am greatly concerned over the rate at which many veterans are expending their readjustment allowances," General Bradley said in an interview.

"A veteran who lies idle for a year, living on unemployment checks in a period when jobs are more plentiful than they may be later, might find it hard to get work and to get to work when his readjustment allowance ends," General Bradley warned.

"That veteran is losing seniority and experience leading to a better job.

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Early End of Wage Controls Strongly Hinted by President

Action Is Expected to Match Removal of Price Ceilings

Washington, D. C.—An early end of wage controls was strongly hinted by President Truman in his statement announcing removal of price ceilings on foods and thousands of other items.

Asked at a press conference about recent reports that wage controls would be dropped, the President avoided a direct reply but referred his questioners to his address cancelling meat ceilings. At that time he told the Nation:

"We all recognize the close relationship between wages and prices. If either one rises too high, the other is certain to be affected. Price control and wage control are largely dependent on each other.

"As we speed up the removal of price controls, the removal of wage controls will also be accelerated. Ideally in a way we should move steadily—and as quickly as we can—toward a free economy and a free collective bargaining."

OPA took its longest stride toward decontrol when it removed ceilings on all foods except sugar, syrups, molasses and rice, as well as a long list of nonfood products.

At the same time the agency said a still broader decontrol order would be issued soon lifting price restrictions in virtually every product and service except such essentials as building materials rents, clothing, machinery, consumer durable goods and metals.

The Administration drops apart of its wage control every time the Office of Price Administration finds something from price control. This because War Stabilization Board exercises only limited authority over wages.

These are the major controls which the WSB maintains over the wage structure:

1. Types of construction workers are "frozen" except as increases are allowed by the Wage Adjustment Board, a part of WSB.

2. Wage increases granted by employers other than in building, must be approved by WSB only if the pay hikes are to be used as the basis for seeking ceiling price increases from OPA.

3. Wage decreases below a certain base rate in paper specialty products.

Representatives of both industry and labor have expressed opposition to the wage controls. Both industry members of the WSB have submitted their resignations to President Truman but have continued to participate in board activities until he acts upon their requests. Three labor board members—Coleman Barrett and Farl Bridges—have urged the Administration to end all wage controls.

The construction industry is the only one which maintains over the war mained "frozen" since the end of the war. Recently wage board authorization has been given construction wages cannot be changed from the area rate established on October 3, 1942. The board, in general, has allowed increases to exceed 37.5 cents and hour over the 1941 hourly rates.

Rates of pay in other industries have forged ahead far more rapidly. The Administration has been lenient in acceding to demands of labor for higher wages and has bulged its wage line; and, approval of wage increases is necessary only if price increases were sought. This means that those industries which are no longer subject to the OPA price regulations are free to grant wage increases without Government approval.

The WSB still retains authority over any wage decreases. The President has indicated that the WSB not to approve wage decreases below the highest level paid between January 1, 1941 and September 15, 1942. But when the Stabilization Act of 1942 and the presidential order permits wage reductions below that level if necessary to correct.

Most Foods, Beverages, Other Items Freed From Price Controls By OPA

Washington, D. C.—In two sweeping orders, the OPA wiped out price controls over virtually all foods, liquor, beer, and a long list of nonfood products ranging from cosmetics to lumber.

Officials conceded that prices of these items would soar as a consequence of this action, but expressed confidence they will level off when supplies approach demand.

Ceilings were retained on sugar, rice, blended whiskies, wine, and a long list of inedible oils, fats and tallows needed in manufacture of meats.

Ceilings were removed on food and nonfood prices, also, in public eating places.

There was no immediate indication that the agency will agree with labor in such fields as rents, building materials, clothing, automobiles and still scarce household appliances.

The food price order, which leaves only 3 percent of the family food budget under price control, includes bread and bakery products, canned fish, canned fruits and vegetables, canned tomatoes and tomato products, canned pineapple and pineapple juice, breakfast cereals, macaroni and spaghetti.

The list of nonfood items released from price control follows:

Bone ash, lamp black, photo oil colors, carbon paper, typewriter ribbons, vegetable tanning extracts, bicycle tires and tubes, rubber boat valves and bungees, rubber cork stoppers, rubber dog leashes, rubber fruit jar wrenches, sponges rubber makeup puffs, rubber strip and link mats made from scrap materials, rubber tractor tracks, rubber vaginal syringes, rubber vacuum suction cups and sponge rubber wall cleaners.

Lumber products: Alcraft plywood only when sold direct by the manufacturer to aircraft manufacturers or operators for use in the construction, repair and maintenance of aircraft; balsa wood, boat paint, bottle closures, braces and shims (for railroad use), wooden faucets, fiberwood (single ply of veneer laminated to fabric), garden trellises; hardwood logs produced in certain areas; insulator pins, locust mine materials, pot and garden stakes, saddle trees, shoe pegs, shuttle blocks, smoking pipes made from domestic species, white oak staves, tobacco hogshead, wood floors.

Also battery trays, heel rests for accelerator pedal, license plate fasteners and jewel reflectors, metal tire valves, replacement parts for convertible tops of cars for 1941 and prior model cars safety door fasteners, wheel blocks used to hold vehicle when jacking up for flat tire.

Also shredded paper, coated shelf paper, fly ribbons, parking meter tape, paper household aprons, decorative paper tape, sanitary napkins and tampons, paper slippers, paper specialties and combination paper and ribbon gummies used as package carrying devices applied by adhesive means, when sold from packages, paper towels when used in mounting and processing photographs, paper napkins sold only to hospitals and sanitoria, paper sticks sold to candy manufacturers, paper and ribbon gummies specially designed to contain and ship growing plants, handmade set-up paperboard, jewelry boxes, cosmetics (other than soap), pitch of tar and pitch of tar oil, synthetic pitch derived from distillation of wood) and all rubber drug sundries.

YOUR TAXES AND MINE

This is the 15th of a series of 15 articles on the problems affecting every person in the Nation, written for the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service by Arthur A. Elder, tax consultant of the AFL's Tax Committee and a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Tax Cuts For Whom?

It's quite natural for the biggest taxpayers to want to have their taxes reduced.

Unfortunately, these people are among the most powerful in the United States. They have a good fighting chance to get their program across, when citizens are vigilant in protecting their interests.

That's why labor has to be on the watch all the time. It's important that any tax proposals be opposed, but it's still more essential to be ready with sound labor tax programs if and when tax changes are being considered.

The United States Chamber of Commerce has announced its tax program. It will go all-out for that program. Does your local, central body and state federation have a taxation committee that will work equally hard for labor's tax program?

Here is what the Chamber of Commerce wants:

1. Abolition of taxation on undistributed profits.
2. Abolition of "double taxation" on profits.
3. Reduction of excess profits tax level of 25 percent or less.
4. Continuation of the carry-back provisions (under which corporations receive refunds of their excess profits tax if they fail to make their "normal" profits) for several more years.
5. A ceiling of 50 percent on individual income tax rates.

All these changes are designed to reduce or increase the profits of upper bracket corporations and individuals.

When these taxes are reduced, the deductions must be made up by increased taxes elsewhere, and the Chamber of Commerce proposes that these be taken up by excise taxes on articles of consumption "of wide use, but not first necessity."

The chamber is proposing that we switch back from corporation income taxes and reduce graduated income taxes and then place a greater share of the burden on consumption goods.

Excise taxes are sales taxes. They fall most heavily on the lowest income groups. The American Federation of Labor is on record as urging the reduction and elimination of excise taxes.

Labor will have to oppose the tax proposals of the Chamber of Commerce. Excise taxes, and the Chamber of Commerce proposes that these be increased, and pile up profits for themselves, not recognizing that in the process they are inviting a depression which may dry up that source of profits.

IMPROVED FOOD SUPPLIES SPARK JAP TEXTILE OUTPUT

Tokyo.—An announcement from the Ministry of Agriculture predicts brighter prospects for the Japanese cotton industry as an increased food distribution in textile mill workers is contemplated, beginning in November. The announcement said that the lowest ebb of the food supply shortage in June and July of this year, when even the basic food rations were unobtainable—such less the extra rations supposedly guaranteed to workers in factories producing goods for export.

By the end of August, food deliveries had been stepped up to date and favorable weather conditions for the rice crop in recent months indicates further gains in that commodity.

RECORD PICKLE CROP

Chicago, Ill.—According to a report from the National Pickle Packers Association, the nation's biggest pickle crop on record is practically completed. A total of 5,832,524 baskets came off a record acreage of 143,932 and topped a previous record of 5,307,000 baskets in 1942.